

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 13, and 16 have been amended, leaving claims 1-18 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment. Support for the amendment can be found on page 9, lines 5-7 and page 11, lines 8-21. As will be discussed in detail below, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai (US 4,810,060) in view of Tang et al. (US 5,684,365) ("Tang"). For an obviousness rejection to be proper, the Examiner must meet the burden of establishing that all elements of the invention are disclosed in the prior art; that the prior art relied upon, coupled with knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated the skilled artisan to modify a reference or combined references; and that the proposed modification of the prior art must have had a reasonable expectation of success, determined from the vantage point of the skilled artisan at the time the invention was made. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In Re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970).

Claims 1, 2, and 10-12 include the following limitation: "a driving thin film transistor (TFT) having a first end in communication with said self-emissive element for supplying a drive current to said self-emissive element and a second end in communication with a power source with a constant voltage; and a switching TFT having a first end in communication with a data line and a second end in communication with a gate of said driving TFT, said switching TFT controls whether a data signal from said data line is supplied to said gate of said driving TFT."

There is nothing in either Ukai or Tang that teaches or suggests the claimed limitations. In Ukai, the current amount is varied by changing the resistance value when passing a data voltage from the data line therethrough. Ukai therefore compensates for the current amount by changing the TFT size in a device in which the source-drain voltage changes while the gate voltage is fixed. Namely, in Ukai, by changing the size of the switching TFT receiving a fixed gate voltage in accordance with the color of a pixel, the current amount is changed to thereby change the voltage to be applied to the liquid crystal. See column 3, lines 21-45 of Ukai.

On the other hand, in the claim invention, the claimed electrical connections allow for the data voltage to be set to the gate of the driving TFT through the switching TFT, and the amount of current supplied to the EL element from the power source is controlled in

accordance with this voltage. Namely, in the driving TFT, the source-drain voltage is basically fixed. Due to the claimed electrical connections, the drive current for the self-emissive element is controlled using both the switching TFT and the driving TFT, and the size of the driving TFT is changed when performing such control. Accordingly, the claimed electrical connections provide for a different current adjustment than that disclosed in Ukai.

Moreover, the Examiner seems to recognize that our previous argument regarding there be no motivation to combine is a troubling argument. The Examiner cites to the general proposition that much of the teaching that apply to the TFT for a liquid crystal display also apply to an electroluminescent display. However, that general proposition does not address our specific argument that, in this case, because of the difference in functions between the switching TFT of Ukai and the driving TFT of Tang, there is no motivation to combine the driving TFT of Tang with the structure of Ukai.

As we previously explained, the switching TFT of Ukai has similar functions to that of Tang's switching TFT. Thus, the structure for the switching TFT of Ukai may be adapted to that of Tang, but not to the driving TFT. Furthermore, driving TFTs provide a current to an EL element and switching TFTs provide a voltage to a LC element (in Ukai) or a gate of a driving TFT (in Tang); thus, functions of switching TFT and a driving TFT are quite different from each other and it is not possible to readily adapt the structures of the switching TFT of Ukai to the driving TFT of Tang. Accordingly, there is no motivation to combine Ukai and Tang.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, and 10-12 are patentable over Ukai and Tang.

Claims 3-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai in view of Tang and further in view of Rumbaugh (US 6,072,272). Claims 3-9 include the following limitation: "a driving thin film transistor (TFT) having a first end in communication with said self-emissive element for supplying a drive current to said self-emissive element and a second end in communication with a power source with a constant voltage; and a switching TFT having a first end in communication with a data line and a second end in communication with a gate of said driving TFT, said switching TFT controls whether a data signal from said data line is supplied to said gate of said driving TFT." As explained above, Ukai and Tang do not teach or suggest that limitation and Rumbaugh does not remedy that deficiency. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ukai in view of Tang, in view of Rumbaugh, and further in view of Codama (US 6,121,726). Claims 13-18 include the following limitation: "a driving thin film transistor (TFT) having a first end in communication with said self-emissive element for supplying a drive current to said self-emissive element and a second end in communication with a power source with a constant voltage; and a switching TFT having a first end in communication with a data line and a second end in communication with a gate of said driving TFT, said switching TFT controls whether a data signal from said data line is supplied to said gate of said driving TFT." As explained above, Ukai and Tang do not teach or suggest that limitations and Rumbaugh and Codama do not remedy the deficiency. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

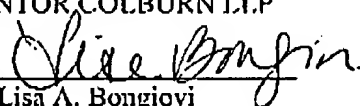
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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